

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- Sub 027
- 1 1. An information handling system, comprising:
2 a processor for executing a program of instructions on the information
3 handling system; and
4 a memory coupled to said processor for storing a program of instructions
5 executable by said processor, said program of instructions capable of presenting a
6 program guide, storable in said memory and executable by said processor, and
7 capable of enabling the information handling system to communicate with a device
8 coupled to said information handling system via a network such that information
9 encoded in a signal made available by the device may be received and processed by
10 the information handling system.
- 1 2. The information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a
2 display coupled to the information handling system for displaying the program guide.
- 1 3. The information handling system as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a
2 display coupled to the information handling system for displaying the information
3 encoded in a signal made available by the device.
- 1 4. The information handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein capabilities
2 of said device to provide content to said display via the information handling system
3 are incorporated into the program guide such that said device may be utilized by the
4 information handling system.
- 1 5. The information handling system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the
2 availability of said device is capable of being incorporated into the program guide
3 such that content from said device may be accessed via a distinct channel of the
4 program guide.

- 1 6. An information handling system, comprising:
2 means for executing a program of instructions on the information handling
3 system; and
4 means, coupled to said executing means, for storing a program of instructions
5 executable by said executing means, said program of instructions capable of
6 presenting a program organizing means, storable in said storing means and executable
7 by said executing means, and capable of enabling the information handling system to
8 communicate with a device coupled to said information handling system via means
9 for coupling electronic devices such that information encoded in a signal made
10 available by the device may be received and processed by the information handling
11 system.
- 1 7. The information handling system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising
2 means for displaying information coupled to the information handling system for
3 displaying said program organizing means.
- 1 8. The information handling system as claimed in claim 6, further comprising
2 means for displaying information coupled to the information handling system for
3 displaying the information encoded in a signal made available by the device.
- 1 9. The information handling system as claimed in claim 6, wherein capabilities
2 of said device to provide content to said display means via the information handling
3 system are incorporated into the program organizing means such that said device may
4 be utilized by the information handling system.
- 1 10. The information handling system as claimed in claim 6, wherein the
2 availability of said device is capable of being incorporated into said program
3 organizing means such that content from said device may be accessed via a distinct
4 channel of the program organizing means.

1 11. A method for utilizing a program guide with an information handling system,
2 comprising the following steps:
3 generating program guide data for programming information available from a
4 first device coupled to the information handling system;
5 monitoring for the presence of additional devices coupled to the information
6 handling system via a network;
7 identifying at least one device coupled to the information handling system;
8 determining whether the identified device is capable of being utilized as a
9 program source; and
10 in the event the identified device is determined to be capable of being utilized
11 as a program source, adding access to such program source via the device to the
12 program guide.

1 12. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of enabling
2 control of the device via the program guide.

1 13. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the following steps:
2 determining whether a channel of the identified device conflicts with a
3 channel of the program guide,
4 in the event it is determined that a channel of the identified device conflicts
5 with a channel of the program guide, mapping the channel of the identified device to a
6 virtual channel on the program guide, and
7 otherwise mapping the channel of the identified device to an actual channel of
8 the program guide.

1 14. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of displaying a
2 program received from the identified device on a display coupled to the information
3 handling system.

1 15. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of
2 simultaneously receiving a program from the first device and the identified device at
3 the information handling system.

1 16. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of
2 simultaneously displaying a program received from the first device and the identified
3 device on a display coupled to the information handling system.

1 17. The method as claimed in claim 11, said identifying step including the step of
2 obtaining device information from a registry of the network.

1 18. The method as claimed in claim 11, said step of determining whether the
2 identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source including the step of
3 obtaining device information from a registry of the network.

1 19. The method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising the step of, in the event
2 it is determined that the identified device is capable of being utilized as a program
3 source, continuing the method with said identifying step for additional devices that
4 may be available to the network.

1 20. The method as claimed in claim 12, said controlling step including the step of
2 tuning to a program signal generated by the identified device via the program guide.

1 21. The method as claimed in claim 11, said monitoring step including the step of
2 enabling the information handling system to search for the presence of additional
3 devices.

1 22. The method as claimed in claim 11, said monitoring step including the step of
2 enabling at least one additional device to notify the information handling system of
3 said at least one additional device's presence.

1 23. A program of instructions storable on a medium readable by an information
2 handling system for causing the information handling system to execute steps for
3 utilizing a program guide on the information handling system, the steps comprising:
4 generating program guide data for programming information available from a
5 first device coupled the information handling system;
6 monitoring for the presence of additional devices coupled to a network to
7 which the information handling system is coupled;
8 identifying at least one device coupled to the network;
9 determining whether the identified device is capable of being utilized as a
10 program source; and
11 in the event the identified device is determined to be capable of being utilized
12 as a program source, adding the device to the program guide.

1 24. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 step of enabling control of the device via the program guide.

1 25. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 following steps:
3 determining whether a channel of the identified device conflicts with a
4 channel of the program guide,
5 in the event it is determined that a channel of the identified device conflicts
6 with a channel of the program guide, mapping the channel of the identified device to a
7 virtual channel on the program guide, and

8 otherwise mapping the channel of the identified device to an actual channel of
9 the program guide.

1 26. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 step of displaying a program received from the identified device on a display coupled
3 to the information handling system.

1 27. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 step of simultaneously receiving a program from the first device and the identified
3 device at the information handling system.

1 28. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 step of simultaneously displaying a program received from the first device and the
3 identified device on a display coupled to the information handling system.

1 29. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, said identifying step
2 including the step of obtaining device information from a registry of the network.

1 30. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, said step of determining
2 whether the identified device is capable of being utilized as a program source
3 including the step of obtaining device information from a registry of the network.

1 31. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, further comprising the
2 step of, in the event it is determined that the identified device is capable of being
3 utilized as a program source, continuing the method with said identifying step for
4 additional devices that may be available to the network.

1 32. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 24, said controlling step
2 including the step of tuning to a program signal generated by the identified device via
3 the program guide.

1 33. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, said monitoring step
2 including the step of enabling the information handling system to search for the
3 presence of additional devices.

1 34. The program of instructions as claimed in claim 23, said monitoring step
2 including the step of enabling at least one additional device to notify the information
3 handling system of said at least one additional device's presence.

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